

DDI-1187-70

6 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Growth of Intelligence Reporting

1. Last fall, a Presidential Directive to reduce the volume of reporting from abroad generated an unusual interest in statistics on gross document receipts. In an effort to provide meaningful periodic reports on the subject, the statistics were examined from several angles. One of the more interesting questions was that of the "information explosion". The short run data* seemed to deny the existence of an explosion. This memorandum and the attached charts, consequently, examine a ten-year span of document flows for evidence of an "explosion". There is growth but use of the word "explosion", to describe the growth, degrades the language.

25X1B 2. The first of the attached charts plots the growth over a ten-year period of three main categories of intelligence communications: collateral cables, collateral reports, and compartmented intelligence reports. The chart shows a significant growth for collateral cables (an annual average rate of [redacted], very significant growth for compartmented intelligence [redacted] and declining collateral document receipts [redacted]. The second 25X1D chart plots the total of these three categories, i.e., the total product disseminated by both the Cable Secretariat and Central Reference Service. It shows an annual average growth rate of about 7%.

25X1D 3. The charts indicate that the period of sharpest growth was during the first half of the decade and this period requires closer examination. Going back a few years further, [redacted] volume doubled between 1957 and 1958. The growth rate then decreased each year until 1962 when it rose again because of publication in that year of a sizable volume of hard copy follow-up reports (100,000+). These reports represent a redundancy. The hard copy follow-up volume has remained fairly stable throughout the period under study and the teletypes now seem to have slowed again in their growth rate. In 1964, TKH reports and cables were given a relatively broad dissemination for the first time. The volume only was about 5,000 items; it doubled shortly thereafter and has remained fairly constant ever since.

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25X1A9a * Prepared from December 1969 until May 1970 for [redacted]
[redacted] CIA Representatives to Inter-Agency Study
Group charged with implementation of the Presidential Directive.

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declassification

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4. During the period 1962-1963, collateral reports showed a substantial increase after years of relative stability. The ensuing period of gradual decline in the volume of these reports partially offset the steady growth of collateral cables throughout the decade. The "field" appears to be shifting from reports to cables; a more significant factor in the growth of cables, however, has been the great increase in communications from the Far East.

5. The second chart indicates that the total product of the two primary CIA dissemination activities has doubled in about 10 years. This constitutes, however, something less than an "information explosion". The establishment of NPIC can be thought of as a reflection of an "explosion", but in terms of documentary reporting to be processed and analyzed by the production analysts, the increase was not great.

6. Paragraphs 3 and 4, moreover, suggest certain one-time causes of the sharp growth in the early 1960s. The 1970s, of course, are unknowable. Present knowledge suggests that repetition of the growth of the 1960s is unlikely even though at some rate seems probable.

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H. C. EISENBEISS

Director, Central Reference Service

Attachments: a/s

CONCUR:

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7 Aug 1970
Date

Cable Secretariat

cc: [] OC 25X1A9a

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